

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of killing melanoma cells comprising contacting said cells for an effective time with an effective amount of an organic small molecule inhibitor of MAPK/ERK kinase (MEK) enzymes of the MAPK pathway which inhibitor induces apoptosis in said cells, thereby killing the cells.

Claim 2 (withdrawn)

Claim 3 (withdrawn)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said inhibitor is ~~an organic small molecule~~ selected from the group consisting of PD98059, U0126 and PD184352.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 wherein said inhibitor is ~~PD98059, U0126 or PD184352.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of any of claims 1, 4 or [[-]]5, wherein said contacting is *in vivo*.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said killing results in measurable regression of melanoma tumor or attenuation of melanoma growth.

Claim 8 (withdrawn)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of inducing an antitumor response in a mammal having melanoma, comprising administering an effective amount of an organic small molecule inhibitor of MEK enzyme of the MAPK pathway to said mammal, which inhibitor induces apoptosis in and is cytotoxic to melanoma cells in said mammal, thereby inducing an antitumor response that comprises is (a) a partial antitumor response characterized by

- (i) at least a 50% decrease in tumor size measured as the sum of the products of maximal perpendicular diameters of all measurable lesions;
- (ii) absence ~~no evidence~~ of new lesions, and
- (iii) lack of ~~no~~ progression of any preexisting lesions, ~~or~~

~~(b) — a complete antitumor response characterized by the disappearance of all evidence of melanoma disease for at least one month.~~

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 9 wherein said antitumor response ~~is a partial antitumor response~~ further comprises the disappearance of all evidence of melanoma disease for at least one month.

Claim 11 (withdrawn)

Claim 12 (withdrawn)

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 9 wherein said inhibitor is ~~an organic small molecule~~ selected from the group consisting of PD98059, U0126 and PD184352.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 13 wherein said inhibitor is ~~PD98059, U0126 or PD184352.~~

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of any of claims 9, 10, 13 or ~~[[-]]~~ 14, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method of inhibiting growth or recurrent growth of a melanoma tumor in a mammal having melanoma or at risk for melanoma growth or recurrence, comprising administering an effective amount of an organic small molecule inhibitor of MEK enzyme ~~MAPK pathway~~ to said mammal, thereby inducing a cytotoxic response leading to apoptosis of melanoma cells in said mammal, which response inhibits said growth or recurrent growth of said melanoma tumor.

Claim 17 (withdrawn)

Claim 18 (withdrawn)

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 16 wherein said inhibitor is ~~an organic small molecule~~ selected from the group consisting of PD98059, U0126 and PD184352.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of claim 19 wherein said inhibitor is ~~PD98059, U0126 or PD184352.~~

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of any of claims 16, 19 or ~~[[]]~~20, wherein said mammal is a human.